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UNCLAS CAIRO 008033

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: U.S. WTO AG PROPOSALS: EGYPTIAN RESPONSE

REF: STATE 190748

The following is Sensitive but Unclassified. Please protect accordingly.

1. (U) This is an action request. Please see paragraph 5.
2. (U) Econoff delivered reftel demarche on October 17 to Dr. Samiha Fawzy, First Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Trade and Industry. Dr. Fawzy was well aware of the U.S. reform proposals and said she would review the demarche points and USTR Fact Sheets (which she already had in her possession) with the Minister. FAS Counselor also delivered points to the Ministry of Agriculture.
3. (SBU) In a subsequent meeting (septel), the Ambassador raised the issue with Minister of Foreign Trade and Industry Rashid Rashid who said that Egypt has pressed the Europeans to meet the U.S. proposal and would keep pushing them. Rashid said Egypt has been very clear about its desire for more market access, and that "Ambassador Portman made a big step" with the U.S. proposal.
4. (SBU) Fawzy mentioned that Egypt, as coordinator of the African Group, was planning on convening a "micro-ministerial" meeting in Cairo on October 26-27, and said they needed the "numbers, co-efficients, formulas, etc." to be able to show the impacts of the proposals on Africa. She also said that MFTI was conducting a series of workshops for journalists on WTO-related trade issues to better prepare them to cover the negotiations.
5. (SBU) Action Request: Post requests USTR and USDA assistance in meeting MFTI request for data regarding the U.S. proposal's ramifications for African markets.

RICCIARDONE